Jisu Pang and Theresa Williams

Invention Work\_Argument Essay

WRT 105

**For this classwork assignment:**

I want you to answer these questions to the best of your ability. You can do this work in a group *or* individually, if you like. Invention work is about taking risks in order to push yourself to learn something new. You will want to use the internet to search for sources and/or learn more about your topic. Keep your discussion local, might be open to looking at the national and the global as well. Be open to being in a creative space when you do this work which means it might be messy and might need modifications later. See this as a starting point for your work in this unit.

**1) What is your area of interest as a inquiry/focus for the essay?**

**-the use of the “r” word in society**

**-its emotional, social, political effect**

**2) What is your personal (empathetic) connection to this area? Why are you personally interested in this?**

**T:**

**-I have heard doctors at Easter Seals use this word**

**I have worked at a place that helps disabled people.**

**J: I have friends who use that word and I do too sometimes because it just slips out and I want to learn more about it.**

**3) What is the connection to campus culture & community?**

**-Many students use the “r” word loosely and as a derogatory term**

**-People don’t think about what that word represents and how hurtful it can be**

**-it’s a part of many student’s vocabulary**

**-there are disabled people on campus**

**4) What is controversial about this topic? In order to make a good argument, you need to frame your topic so that you are focusing on areas that are not given "truths."**

**-this word is derogatory and prejudice however, it is a common word and it cannot be erased**

**5) What inquiry-based questions can you ask that guide you--questions that are not "yes" or "no" or "pro" or "con" questions, rather you can formulate questions that are inherently complex and that you do not already know the answer to.**

**-How do people that use the “r” word loosely truly view the definition of the word?**

**-Will this “r” word ever go away?**

**6) What binary/binaries can you see operating in this issue? How do the binaries work?**

**-Retard is a derogatory word however it was used as a descriptive or medical word in the past**

**7) Find and name two to three potential sources (*authors, articles, chapters from books, university policies, university documents, civil rights legislation, interview subjects, artifacts, images* etc) for this issue.**

**-Simi Linton’s “Reassigning Meaning”**

**-The “R” word campaign:** [**www.therword.org**](http://www.therword.org)

**-The Power of our voices: Disabilitystudies.syr.edu/docs/thepoweroffourvoicesvol1no1.pdf**

**8) Find and name two to three potential sources for this issue that have varying (possibly conflicting) perspectives from the two to three you named above.**

**-AHRC**

**-ARC**

**9) So what? Why does this issue matter? Give at least three reasons.**

**-This issue matters because it is hurting people that are disabled.**

**-Affects the way the public views the disabled community because it has a negative connotation.**

**-The emotional implications of this word are severe and can become worse the longer the public uses it.**

**-the disabled community should have a voice to what they are named**

**-we should not use the “r” word when disabled people do not want us to use it**